

There are many interesting facts to be learned from this book, and extra little tidbits are presented in boxes separate from the rest of the text.

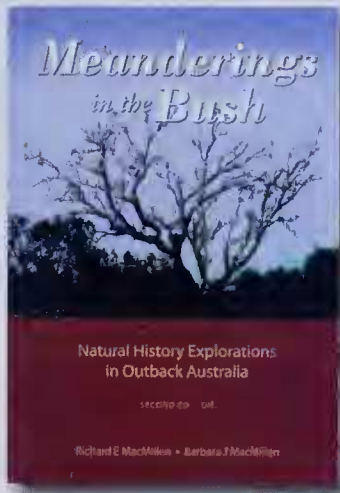
While the description of each species contains much factual, informative and interesting detail, I found the attempts at humour and the anthropomorphic writing style, used by the author particularly for the mammals, but also employed throughout the book, to be extremely irritating.

I did learn information of which I was not previously aware, but still had difficulty deciding to

whom the book was directed. Was it for children? Or perhaps it was written for the overseas market, as every measurement was in metric with imperial measurements in brackets.

The photographs were grand as one would expect from the hands of Jiri Lochman and the other contributors, with super photos appearing in all sections of the book.

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Meanderings in the Bush: Natural History Explorations in Outback Australia

by Richard E MacMillen and
Barbara J MacMillen

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try. The stories of many adventures and some misadventures are told in a humorous style, all the while showing respect for the country, the station people and outback characters and the fauna encountered and studied.

In Chapter 7, MacMillen discusses the adaptations to the arid environment adopted by some of the wildlife. Chapter 8 introduces the human dimension into the equation and questions whether the native creatures can survive under the changes brought about by the human occupation and use of the outback areas. MacMillen suggests solutions for co-existence; recent history would suggest that it is unlikely that governments will listen.

As an ecologist and as a traveller to many of the places mentioned, I enjoyed reading this book. Now I am looking forward to going back again to see it with fresh eyes.

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This book is a record of American ecologist Richard MacMillen's six visits to Australia over a period of 26 years. As well as descriptions of field work conducted, mostly in Queensland's Channel Country, there are stories of other meanderings in the outback and of living on an island in the Hawkesbury River.

MacMillen's field work was wide-ranging and included: small mammals such as Kowari, Kultarr and Fawn-hopping Mice; Inland Crabs and their burrowing strategies to survive the dry times; and parrots such as Red-rumped, Ring-neck and Little Corellas with their economical use of water.

In addition to field work, there were meanderings, travels and explorations around the coun-